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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2006. The deadline for responding has been extended to December 28, 2006 by way of a request for a 3 month extension of time made herewith.

I. Introduction

Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 6, 18, 19 and 22 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-22 are now pending.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9 and 19-22 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,490,705 to Boyce in view of U.S. Patent No 5,392,299 to Rhines et al.

In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 4, 5 and 10-18 but indicated that these claims were directed to patentable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication for allowable subject matter.

As will be discussed below, Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and have carefully amended various claims so that each of the pending independent claims now includes subject matter from a claim indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants believe the application, as amended is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone if, after consideration of this amendment, there are any issues which still need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance.

II. The Pending Claims Are Patentable

1. Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-18

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 10. In view of the amendment to claim 1, claim 10 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-3, 6-9 and 11-18 which depend from claim 1 are now allowable for the same reasons claim 10 was allowable.

2. Claims 4-5

Claims 4-5 were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter but were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore, along with claim 5 which depends from claim 4, in condition for allowance.

3. Claims 19-22

Independent claims 19 and 22 have been amended to include features from claim 10 which was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. As amended claims

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19 and 22 clearly distinguish over the applied references for the same or similar reasons that claim 10 distinguished over the references.

In view of the amendments to claims 19 and 22 it is respectfully submitted that these claims and claims 20-21 which depend from claim 19 are now in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone to discuss and hopefully resolve said issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made and any required fee is authorized to be charged to the deposit account of Straub & Pokotylo, deposit account number 50-1049.

None of the statements or discussion made herein are intended to be an admission that any of the applied references are prior art to the present application and Applicants preserve the right to establish that one or more of the applied references are not prior art.

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Respectfully submitted,

December 28, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below.

Michael P. Straub

Type or print name of person signing certification

Michael P. Straub
Signature

December 28, 2006
Date